A New Standard of Practice for TB Testing in Iowa

- CDC Recommends IGRA's be used in place of the TST for testing persons who have received BCG vaccine, because it increases the diagnostic specificity and the patient is more accepting for treatment of latent TB¹.
- QuantiFERON-TB Gold In-Tube (QFT-GIT)[®] is a blood test manufactured by Cellestis² that measures
 and compares the amount of interferon-gamma (IFN-γ) released in blood cells in response to three
 TB antigens.
- The QFT-GIT® assay was FDA approved in 2007. When compared to the TST, the benefits of QFT-GIT® assay are that it only requires a single patient visit to conduct the test, it does not boost responses measured by subsequent tests & prior BCG vaccination does not cause a false-positive IGRA test result. Therefore, fewer individuals need to be referred for further diagnostic testing such as a chest x-ray.
- A courier system is in place to transport specimens. The CPT code is 86480 and is reimbursable through Medicaid.
- Additional information regarding specimen collection and shipping instructions for the State
 Hygienic Laboratory can be found in the Tuberculosis tab of the Quick Reference Guide for the Initial
 Domestic Refugee Health Assessment. Before drawing the specimen and ordering the test, contact
 SHL-Serology to make arrangements at 319-335-4500.

² http://www.cellestis.com/IRM/Content/usa/qtfproducts_tbgoldintube.html



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¹ Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Updated Guidelines for Using Interferon Gamma Release Assays to Detect Mycobacterium tuberculosis Infection – United States, 2010. June 25, 2010 / Vol. 59 / No. RR—5 / Pg. 1 – 26.